

Weekend Weather

Today: Partly cloudy – high 84, low 70

Saturday: Partly cloudy – high 90, low 75

Sunday: Partly cloudy – high 91, low 75



Sorties



Squadron	Month	Year
8th FW	+19	+8
35th FS	+13	+8
80th FS	+6	-44

Force Protection Tip

Wolf Pack members are encouraged to avoid protest groups. If present during a protest avoid engaging in conversation or lewd behavior. All servicemembers represent the United States of America and should act accordingly.



WOLF PACK
WARRIOR

Vol. 16, No. 29

Serving the members of the 8th Fighter Wing, Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea

Aug. 24, 2001



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brian Hill

Slappin’ on a new coat of paint

Senior Airman Richard Hutchison, 8th Maintenance Squadron Aircraft Structural Maintenance journeyman, paints the F-16 model, usually perched in front of the base exchange, Wednesday. The refurbishing project is expected to be completed today.

SSN no longer needed on checks to AAFES

By Airman 1st Class Brian Hill
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The issue of Social Security numbers on checks is fast becoming a major concern among shoppers everywhere.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service shares in this concern with its customers and has changed its procedure for check acceptance at all AAFES direct-operated facilities worldwide.

“The Social Security number, which is used by both AAFES and Department of Defense to identify military personnel, is an important element in the authorization of checks, as well as verification to identify customers who are authorized to use exchange facilities,” said Anna Iosefo, Kunsan Activity Manager Central Exchange.

The new program uses magnetic ink character recognition to eliminate the need for Social Security numbers to be written on checks.

The new procedure requires cashiers to enter the Social Security number of the person presenting the check, which may be the sponsor or a family member. This is accomplished by taking the Social Security number from the presenter’s identification card and key entering it into the register or other authorization device as part of the transaction. The Social Security number is not required on the check.

The check is scanned using the MICR reader technology, which reads the routing number, account number and check number. Other basic data, such as the presenter’s name, address and military unit must still be printed or written on the check.

“It’s AAFES’ policy to take practical steps to ensure the privacy of the service members, retirees and the family members we serve,” said Tim Bailey, Chief of AAFES’ Management Information Systems Fiscal Support Branch. “AAFES has made this commitment as a part of our mission to better serve our customers throughout the world.”

Captains may be promoted to major quicker

By Staff Sgt. Amy Parr
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Captains wanting a promotion to major may not have to wait as long anymore.

A proposal recently submitted to Congress would modify the grade-ceiling table in Title 10 U.S.C. 523, calling for a 7-percent permanent grade relief to majors. This table provides the authorized strengths of commissioned officers on active duty in the grades of major, lieutenant colonel and colonel.

By increasing the authorized Air Force major grade ceiling by 7 percent, more officers at any one time will wear the rank of major than previously allowed by law, said Lt. Col. Jan Middleton, Air Force promotion, evaluation and separation policy chief at the Pentagon.

The average time in service to pin on major will go from 11.1 to 9.5 years over the next three to four years.

Captains should become majors between nine and 11 years, according to the Defense Officer Personnel Management Act.

The grade relief will allow the Air Force to make this goal by letting more captains pin on faster through an accelerated board schedule, said Maj. Bill Nolte, Air Force officer promotion policy chief.

This Air Force initiative was requested, Nolte said, because for nearly a decade the Air Force has been unable to meet the management act’s guidelines.

“Other services (officers) pin on (O-4) nine to 12 months earlier than the Air Force,” he said. “This is a source of dissatisfaction with Air Force officers.”

The grade relief to major will also compensate officers more adequately for work performed, Middleton said.

“In the nonrated line, 17 percent of field grade billets must be filled by company grade officers due to field-

grade shortages,” she said. “It also has a positive effect on retention.

“Officers can frequently do better financially and faster outside the Air Force,” Middleton said. “Bringing down the pin-on time to major with the accompanying pay raise may encourage some officers to remain in the Air Force.”

The program will also better align career decision points for pilots, Nolte said.

“Combined with the new 10-year active-duty service commitment for pilots,” he said, “this initiative will ensure pilots pin on major six to 12 months prior to their service commitment expiring.”

If approved, and if the Air Force chooses to implement major grade relief, Nolte said it will begin in 2002 and affect all captains meeting a promotion selection board under which the Air Force chooses to implement grade relief.